

Spec Code: 3751  
Occ. Area: 15  
Work Area: 171  
Prob. Period: 6 mo.  
Prom. Line: None  
Effective Date: 05/31/00

## **ATHLETIC TURF SPECIALIST**

### Function of Job

Under general supervision from a designated supervisor, to schedule and perform maintenance work and/or improve growing conditions for natural turf on intercollegiate athletic fields, intramural fields, and other high intensity turf areas on a campus.

### Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities

1. Performs athletic field grounds maintenance such as mowing, trimming grass, aerating and applying top dressing. Applies fertilizers and pesticides according to manufacturers' recommended rates and in compliance with applicable state pesticide regulations.
2. Performs periodic inspections of turf areas and provides recommendations for services needed.
3. Maintains and performs minor repairs on irrigation systems and inspects for head rotation, water distribution, pressure losses, electric solenoids, controllers, and leaks.
4. Develops work schedules for the maintenance of competitive athletic fields on natural turf by coordinating annual horticultural calendar with athletic schedule of events.
5. Prepares records, reports and budget recommendations as required.
6. Operates and maintains equipment required in the performance of assigned duties.
7. Is responsible for the inventory of equipment and supplies used in assigned area.
8. Maintains cooperative relationships with persons in charge of other facilities used in connection with sports competition.
9. Reads landscape design plans and prints for athletic fields, prepares layouts, and performs painting and striping of athletic fields.
10. Trains subordinates and evaluates completed work as required.
11. Performs other related duties as assigned.

### Minimum Acceptable Qualifications

#### **CREDENTIALS TO BE VERIFIED BY PLACEMENT OFFICER**

1. Three years of work experience in the maintenance of turf grass. Credit for college course work in fields directly related to turf management (such as in the management, maintenance,

and operation of recreational areas, facilities, or equipment; diseases and insects; landscape construction; community recreation; plant science; soils; landscape design and management; and safety and first aid) may be substituted for up to two years of work experience on the basis of one semester hour of credit being equal to 0.5 months of experience.

2. Certification by the Illinois Department of Agriculture as a Public Pesticide Operator in technical category area (s) applicable to work assignments of the position to be filled, as required by the Illinois Pesticide Act.
3. Valid State of Illinois driver's license.

#### PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE JOB

1. Working knowledge of equipment and tools commonly used for athletic turf maintenance
2. Knowledge of turf problems relating to cultural practices, diseases, or insect damage
3. Knowledge of State of Illinois and USEPA regulations regarding pesticide use and storage
4. Knowledge of irrigation system operations
5. Skill in the operation, use, and maintenance of athletic turf equipment and tools
6. Skill in keeping records and writing reports
7. Ability to diagnose athletic turf problems correctly
8. Ability to make decisions
9. Supervisory ability
10. Ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally
11. Ability to coordinate a horticultural calendar with athletic events calendar
12. Ability to shift priorities as weather dictates or as emergencies arise
13. Ability to perform hard physical labor
14. Manual dexterity